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NEWSLETTER

September 1967

NO. 87

RETIRED FARMERS HELP KEEP AMERICA BEAUTIFUL

Clem Du Frene, 88, wasn't making much money on his 80-acre farm in Minnesota.

Ernest Kleinke, 66, wasn't making much money farming either, and he felt he was too old to invest in the animals and machinery he would need to increase his income.



Now, they are working on Project Green Thumb, which provides work for people who, for various reasons, could not continue to farm or find employment.

Green Thumb worker-trainees plant trees and flowers, trim shrubs, develop roadside parks, and carry out other projects to beautify the Nation's highways and byways. The average age of the Green Thumb workers is about 67 -- with the oldest 89.

Before working on the project, their average income was substandard. Now, they earn the prevailing local wage, which ranges from \$1.25 to \$1.50 an hour.

Project Green Thumb started a little over a year ago in Arkansas, New Jersey, Oregon, and Minnesota. It was later extended into Indiana. Several other States are expected to join the project this year.

About 500 of these retired farmers have planted a half-million trees, built about 25 new parks, reconditioned about 50 more older parks, set up several hundred new rest areas, cleared hundreds of miles of highway right-of-way, and helped in many county, city, and village beautification programs.

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STUDY BOOSTS CO-OP'S

A national marketing cooperative expects to save \$200,000 this year by making changes in its distribution system.

Last fall, the co-op asked Farmer Cooperative Service to develop a least-cost distribution system for its products. Changes made as a result of the FCS



study are expected to save the co-op the \$200,000 this year -- about 40 percent of the co-op's refunds to its members last year.

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TWO NEW FACTORIES TO PROVIDE JOBS

Two planned factories in northern Arkansas will employ about 400 people to make shirt components.

One of the plants, at Salem, will employ about 200 people to make shirts for Mar-Bax Shirt Company of Gassville. The other, at Mountain View, will employ 200 people to make components for Flint Rock Shirt Company of Marshall.

Donald Cooper, president of both shirt companies, said one reason for locating the plants in the area was "good information and good and whole-hearted cooperation by communities in making their assets available and apparent." Credit for that went to the Senior and Junior Chambers of Commerce at Salem, and the Chamber of Commerce at Mountain View.



Employment Security and Extension Services helped with a survey which showed there were enough potential employees in the area.

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RECREATION VENTURE INCREASES COMMUNITY INCOME

Recreation facilities on a farm in New Mexico have brought business to weaving shops, laundries and other services, and have created an outlet for native specialty crops grown by local farmers.



The operation has increased the average community income by about \$100,000 a year and average annual employment by 20 man-years.

The farm, near Chimayo, was developed to include a restaurant, lodging facilities, fish ponds, nature trails, and riding stables.

The Abiquiu-Vallecitos and Pojoaque-Santa Cruz Soil and Water Conservation Districts co-sponsored the measure as part of the Northern Rio Grande Resource Conservation and Development Project.

A local savings and loan association loaned \$30,000 for the restaurant, Farmers Home Administration loaned \$8,660 for farm improvements, and the Agri-

cultural Stabilization and Conservation Service cost-shared \$384 on Christmas tree plantings. Soil Conservation Service provided technical assistance for farm improvements and recreation developments. The State Health Department provided guidance in meeting standards and regulations.

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WHO HELPED AT THE MILL RAISING?

Old fashioned barn raising may be a thing of the past but the idea is as good as ever.

It took a lot of assistance from many sources to raise a modern automated sawmill as part of the New Mexico Northern Rio Grande Resource Conservation and Development Project. The plant at Espanola is expected to raise annual area income in turn, by \$1.2 million and employs about 60 men in its initial phase of operation.



As for who made the plant possible . . .

- * Private funds provided half of the \$1 million cost of constructing the plant.
- * The City of Espanola helped arrange housing, utilities, fire protection, and other business needs.
- * The State Employment Security Commission helped with recruitment, canvassed the labor supply and studied training programs for the company.
- * The State Forestry Department made a timber survey, studied use and markets for waste by-products, and gave overall technical assistance.
- * The State Planning Office investigated training programs.
- * The U.S. Forest Service gave leadership in timber surveys and in developing working arrangements to insure the successful bidder a 10-year annual minimum cut.
- * The Bureau of Indian Affairs helped provide a long-term lease for a plant site on San Juan Pueblo Lands and completed timber surveys on Indian Pueblo Lands.
- * The Soil Conservation Service provided technical assistance and RC&D funds through the project sponsors (the Duke City Lumber Company and the Rio Arriba Development Corporation).
- * The RC&D project steering committee, with help from the Espanola action group, provided leadership and coordinated agency activities in getting the measure underway.

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BEAUTIFICATION CONTEST FACE LIFTS ASHEVILLE, N.C. ROADSIDES

The Asheville, N.C., Agricultural Development Council held its most successful roadside beautification contest this year in terms of participation. By sponsoring the contest they are helping to mobilize community-wide interest and efforts to clean-up and beautify the suburban communities of Asheville.

Roadside clean-ups include moving junk cars, removing dilapidated buildings, planting ornamental annuals and shrubs, repainting community entrance signs and mailboxes.

Publicity support furnished by the Council includes contest entrance forms and a slide and tape program on roadside beautification entitled "The Choice is Yours."

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AN ACTIVE TAP HELPS RANCHERS WATER 930 ACRES

Nine Joseph, Oregon, ranchers are farming better because of the assistance of the Wallowa County Technical Action Panel. Their TAP brought a pressure pipeline irrigation system to supply water to 930 acres of farm land.

Financed through a \$40,600 Farmers Home Administration loan and \$20,700 in conservation cost sharing funds, the project enabled the ranchers to boost their incomes through cooperative use of a single irrigation system.

Total annual cost of the project comes to \$3.76 per acre which includes debt repayment, operation and maintenance, and a reserve fund.

The Soil Conservation Service surveyed and planned the project, while the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service administered the cost sharing assistance.